

For Immediate Release

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Mayor Coleman To Host Statewide Effort Against Illegal Guns *Columbus Receives Grant To Fund Statewide Coordinator*

Mayors Against Illegal Guns has chosen Mayor Michael B. Coleman's office to coordinate a statewide effort to curb illegal gun trafficking in Ohio. Columbus was awarded a \$75,000 grant by the Joyce Foundation and United Against Illegal Guns Support Fund to fund Ohio's regional coordinator for Mayors Against Illegal Guns. The grant can be renewed for a second year.

"I am proud to lead Ohio's efforts to stop the scourge of gun violence in our neighborhoods and the flow of illegal guns in our state," Mayor Coleman said. "I thank Mayors Against Illegal Guns for recognizing that Columbus is the right city to lead this important fight."

Funded by the grant, the regional coordinator who will work out of Mayor Coleman's office with the full support of the mayor, his staff and the Columbus Department of Public Safety. The coordinator will be charged with advancing common-sense state and local policies to address gun violence in Ohio, facilitate the enforcement of existing gun laws and engage partners among additional mayors, law enforcement, the firearms industry and the faith community.

"I am thrilled that Mayor Coleman and the City of Columbus will host the new Ohio regional coordinator for Mayors Against Illegal Guns," said New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, coalition co-chair. "Mayor Coleman has demonstrated an impressive commitment to fighting illegal guns in his community and will be a leader at the state and national level as the coalition calls for better enforcement of existing gun laws and works to close dangerous loopholes in federal law. I want to thank every Ohio mayor who applied to host the coordinator."

Mayor Coleman has long been on the front lines against gun violence in Columbus neighborhoods and has been a passionate advocate of common-sense gun laws on the municipal, state and federal level. Mayor Coleman signed Columbus' law to ban assault weapons, which was overturned by the Ohio legislature in 2006.

"Mayor Coleman and the City of Columbus are terrific additions to the leadership of our coalition," said coalition co-chair and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "I look forward to working with Mayor Coleman as he leads the effort to advance common sense policies that will help keep neighborhoods in Ohio and across America safe. Together, with mayors across the country we have a responsibility to continue to work with leaders in Washington to take further steps to stem the flow of illegal guns in our communities."